

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 28, 2003. Claims 1 to 20 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18 and 19 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

As an initial matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18 and 19 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 2, 5 to 7, 10 to 12, 15 to 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 11-069076 (Konishi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns classifying a recorded image according to attached information by designating a name of each paper discharge tray. In subsequent operations, the paper discharge tray of a paper upon which the image is printed is determined from the attached information.

Amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an image recording device comprising a designation unit, adapted for designating a name of each paper discharge tray; a connection unit, adapted for detachably connecting to said device a memory card that stores image data and attached information for the image data; and a determination unit, adapted for determining a paper discharge tray of paper recording an image based on the image data read from the memory card connected by said connection unit according to the

attached information read from the connected memory card, and the name designated by said designation unit.

In contrast, Konishi discloses a communication terminal that receives facsimiles to one of two or more receipt trays that are assigned names of addressees in advance. The terminal recognizes an addressee's name from destination information included in a received facsimiles and outputs a paper that records the facsimile to the tray corresponding to the recognized addressee name. Konishi, however, does not disclose a memory card, detachably connected to an image recording device, and having stored image data and attached information for the image data. The attached information includes a designated tray name for receipt of a paper image generated from the image data. Furthermore, Konishi fails to disclose a determination unit, which determines, on the basis of the attached information and a designated tray name, a paper discharge tray for a paper that is used to record the image. The communication terminal equipment of Konishi, therefore, cannot select a paper discharge tray on the basis of information attached to an image and read from a connected memory card.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against amended independent Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Amended independent Claims 6, 11 and 16 are claims to a method, a computer-readable program and a storage medium storing a computer-readable program, respectively, corresponding to the image recording device of Claim 1. Applicants submit

that the discussion from above in regard to Claim 1 is applies equally to Claims 6, 11 and 16. Applicants therefore submit that Claims 6, 11 and 16 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

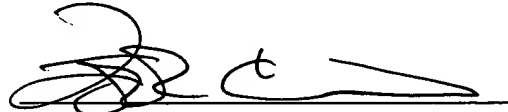
Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18 and 19 have been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims. As such, Applicants submit that Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18 and 19 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

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